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Employment Issue

Looking at services and aspects of employment in the university community

SPECIAL SECTION
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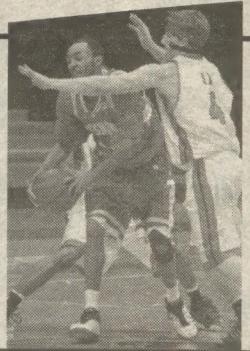
VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 40

gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

Maverick basketball finishes up regular season
Men fall to Pittsburg State, women drop game against Southwest Baptist

SPORTS
[PAGE 4]



TUESDAY | MARCH 3, 2009

Federal, state budgets paint picture of future university finance crunch *Budget woes possible with reduced state allocations*

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

The budget situation for the University of Nebraska began to come into focus late last week as NU President James B. Milliken prepared for his presentation to the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee.

Unfortunately, as expected, the outlook is still grim.

On Thursday, as President Obama released his \$3.55 trillion budget — which carries a \$1.75 trillion deficit — Nebraska lawmakers began pouring over the \$7 billion preliminary state budget released by the Legislature's Appropriations Committee.

As with the federal budget, which contained, among other provisions, a projected carbon tax revenue beginning in fiscal year 2012, the Appropriations Committee's preliminary report painted the budget picture using large brushstrokes.

As it stands, the proposal grants the NU system a 1.5 percent funding increase for each of the two years of the biennium composed of fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-11. Overall, the adjustments made by the committee set aside an additional \$24.9 million for university and state college aid.

While this allocation is 0.5 percent more for each year than Gov. Dave Heineman proposed in his budget recommendation, it still falls short of the university's full request for state support by more than \$25 million.

Any shortfall in the university's budget will need to be resolved by a combination of spending cuts and tuition increases, and Milliken repeatedly has said tuition increases would be kept to single-digits.

"There almost certainly will be reallocations, if not budget cuts, required over the two years of the biennium," Milliken said. "As is always the case, these will be very difficult."

After releasing its preliminary report, the Appropriations Committee warned that four factors could still "significantly alter" the budget projects: any revisions to the revenue forecast, the distribution of federal stimulus funding, the status of benefit retirement funds and the use of cash reserves to balance the budget.

One of those factors — a revised prediction made by the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board — began blurring the budget picture Friday.

The revenue forecasting board announced state revenue would be \$81 million fewer than previous predictions for the current year, \$150 million fewer for 2009-10 and \$131 million fewer for 2010-11. Overall, the board projects the state will bring in only \$7.03 billion in revenues over the 2009-11 biennium.

"This revenue forecast clearly demonstrates that the national economic slowdown is impacting Nebraska," Heineman said. "The key to Nebraska's future is controlling expenditures. State government will have to tighten its belt."

Another wild card, Milliken said, was the federal stimulus package, which will provide the Nebraska economy with about \$1.2 billion in spending. It remains unknown how much will be available to fund state spending initiatives, which could include facility renovations for the university system.

Making budgeting more complex at the UNO campus, the university also recently received rulings in collective bargaining negotiations for campus faculty.

The university's proposal to the union was rejected after negotiations went into arbitration with a special master, who is required under state law to compare faculty salaries to peer institutions when there is an unresolved dispute in collective bargaining.

With the ruling, UNO's faculty stands to gain an average salary increase of 3.8 percent for each year of the biennium. The faculty was also awarded a life insurance benefit Milliken warned could be an expensive addition to overall compensation.

The university has until March 15 to appeal the decision to the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations. Milliken said the university is considering what steps, if any, to take with an appeal.

In an e-mail to UNO faculty, Terry Hynes, senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, said the pay increases and new insurance benefit "very likely will have an

SEE BUDGET: PAGE 3



A traditional Japanese dance was one of several presentations during last year's International Banquet sponsored by International Student Services. (BILL WENDL/THE GATEWAY)

First class ticket around globe more affordable than thought

CAITRIN SHIRAZI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Cash-strapped students wanting to travel around the world to experience new cultures might need to go no further than the student center.

The annual International Student Services cultural fair will take place in the Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room Tuesday and Wednesday. The free event will last from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and will have tables and displays representing 12 countries from around the world.

"The UNO community is invited to browse the tables, ask questions and develop a greater appreciation of the international diversity represented on campus," said Erin Cron, assistant director of Student Organizations and Leadership Programs.

In addition to the fair, the student agency's International Banquet will take place on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. It will feature cuisine from cultures around the world.

While the cultural fair is free to the public, admission to the banquet is \$8 for UNO students, \$25 for non-student adults and \$12 for children.

Those looking to attend the banquet should purchase tickets in advance, as the event usually sells out. Tickets can be

SEE BANQUET: PAGE 3

Collaboration with OPPD seeks to raise awareness

CAITRIN SHIRAZI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Energy Savings Potential Program, a joint effort between UNO and the Omaha Public Power District, was recently established as a response to the national energy crisis.

The mission of the program is to support and deliver collaborative research efforts to develop results beneficial to both groups and promote projects that deal with energy efficiency and the effective use of energy in residential and small commercial areas.

The annual budget for the program is upwards of \$500,000, with \$50,000 going toward administrative expenses, according to a panel discussion last week in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service Building's Collaborating Commons.

On average, grants range between \$25,000 and \$75,000 per year. Grant funding may continue beyond one year, but recipients must continue to provide details on how the money was spent during the time beyond the initial year.

The program has four priorities when accepting requests for funding.

The first is investing current housing stock and the corresponding impact it may have on energy demand. The second is innovative, grassroots or neighborhood-based efforts to increase energy efficient practices and technologies used in residences.

The third priority is innovative methods to teach students K-12 and post-secondary educational institutions to use and

teach energy efficient practices in their curriculum. And the fourth is using innovative models and methods to make the entire building industry incorporate energy efficient concepts into homes and businesses.

The application process for the Energy Savings Potential Program involves submitting a proposal and concept paper to Gary Anderson at glanderson@mail.unomaha.edu. Anderson then forwards the proposals to ad-hoc review panels.

The panels review the requests and forward their recommendations to an advisory board, which can reject the idea outright, send it back for modifications or approve it for funding.

"Be open to ad-hoc requests for project updates and be prepared to respond to specific feedback and questions during the full proposal," Anderson said. "Remember to stay focused on stated priorities."

If the proposal is accepted for funding, the grant recipient will work with the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research to prepare and submit a proposal request form and disclosure of interest form before funding is granted. Both forms and more information are available online at www.unomaha.edu/spr.

Recipients must then provide semi-annual and final progress reports to the advisory board as well as additional reports when requested.

Each July, the Energy Savings Potential Program staff will also release an annual report summarizing the events and activities of the previous year along with results of each research project's final report.

SEE ENERGY: PAGE 3



JUDY RYDBERG/THE GATEWAY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SEVEN DAYS OF SERVICE

Students and faculty are encouraged to volunteer for the seventh annual Seven Days of Service event over spring break on March 14 and March 16 through March 21.

This year's theme is "Engaged in our Community," said Kathleen Oleson Lyons, assistant director of the Service Learning Academy.

At least 800 volunteers are wanted to partner with local high schools, business, alumni and other community organizations. Volunteers this year will work with Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army, Stephen's Center and the Fair Deal Café.

To register as a volunteer or for more information, visit www.unomaha.edu/slareg or call the Service Learning Academy at 554-6019.

- Scott Stewart

FROM BUDGET: PAGE 2

impact on UNO's budget challenges in the 2009-2011 biennium."

Nevertheless, Hynes also stressed in the e-mail the campus' desire for competitive and equitable compensation for all campus employees.

"Competitive salaries help the university attract and retain the best professors and researchers across the entire range of disciplines, and the Board of Regents has demonstrated its commitment to this goal through the NU Strategic Framework," Hynes said.

Milliken suggested the university might establish a salary pool to provide a common percentage increase for each campus. Such a pool would likely leave a deficit for salaries that would force adjustments in the campus budget.

"It is too early in the process to make this determination now," Milliken said. "We do know that additional increases beyond the level of the pool, if any, will be the responsibility of each campus."

What comes next?

The next step in the budget process comes today as Milliken and other NU officials participate in a hearing before the Appropriations Committee to make their case for funding the university system.

The hearing takes place at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1524 of the State Capitol Building. The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, the Nebraska State College System and the Nebraska Community College Association all had their hearings on Monday.

The committee will continue to have hearings throughout March from various state agencies, as well as on legislation before the committee. It then has until April 29 to advance a final budget proposal to the floor of the Legislature, which may take until May 18 to take final action on the state budget.

The Board of Regents will then meet on June 12 to adopt a finalized university-wide budget and set tuition rates for the 2009-10 academic year.

Milliken will announce campus allocations on June 19 for the fiscal year beginning on July 1.

The chancellor of each campus will then make allocations to individual colleges and departments consistent with university allocation guidelines.

In the meantime, two more campus budget forums like the one held in January are expected, with the next one initially planned for early March and the other in late April or early May.

Bill Conley, vice chancellor for Business and Finance, said the next forum remained unscheduled Friday. However, he directed the campus community to Milliken's e-mail, which is reproduced in full on Page 3.

"I think President Milliken did a great job on that," Conley said. "Quite honestly, I don't know anything else to add right now."

FROM ENERGY: PAGE 2

Previously approved projects include a project that implemented tax and financial incentives for energy conservation, a neighborhood-based approach to improving aging housing stock in the metro area and programs that promote energy waste awareness and conservation in schools.

For more information, visit the program's Web site at www.unomaha.edu/energyprogram.

FROM BANQUET: PAGE 2

purchased in the MavCard business office on the second floor of the Milo Bail Student Center.

The cultural fair and banquet have been important traditions for the past 37 years, helping international students share their culture and heritage with the campus community.

This year's fair and banquet theme is "Muvuca," a Portuguese word meaning the coming together of cultures and people. The banquet entertainment will feature performances from 10 different countries. Dinner will consist of foods from most of the continents.

A free dance will take place in the Milo Bail Student Center Fireplace Lounge following the banquet. It will run from 9 p.m. until midnight.

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NEWS

Milliken's e-mail addresses budget process, optimism about future of university system

Editor's Note: This letter was sent via e-mail to all University of Nebraska faculty and staff on Feb. 25 from NU President James B. Milliken. It is reproduced here in full without any editing.

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing today to follow up on my letter of December 1, to provide additional information about the budget situation and our planning. I apologize for the length of this letter – I was warned by colleagues that it is way too long – but there are a number of things I want to share with you.

First, the good news – relatively speaking.

Nebraska is still in better shape than most states, but when we're faced with our own significant challenges, our comparative well-being provides little comfort. To date, we are aware of 28 states that have enacted budget cuts for public colleges and universities during the current fiscal year. While this has not been required in Nebraska, you are aware from the daily news that our state's situation has also deteriorated. There almost certainly will be reallocations, if not budget cuts, required over the two years of the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and maybe beyond. As is always the case, these will be very difficult. Nonetheless, I continue to believe that we are in a strong position, with positive momentum on many fronts and with experienced leadership in key positions across the University.

New developments

Although there is still much uncertainty about our budget beginning next July 1, we do have additional information since my last letter that informs our planning. First, regarding overall economic conditions, Nebraska has over the last couple of months seen more of the downturn experienced earlier in other parts of the country. State revenues have declined compared to projections, and this will have an effect on state government spending. Later this week the Nebraska Economic Forecast Advisory Board will issue new state revenue projections, and the consensus view is that the revenue estimates for the next two years will be lowered.

A key point in the development of the state budget was in mid-January, when Governor Heineman released his budget recommendations for the next biennium, which included an increase of 1 percent (\$5 million) in the University's operating budget in each year. To keep this increase in perspective, consider that a 1 percent increase in salary for the University requires about \$5.5 million. When compared to the salary (2.5 percent proposed increase), utilities, health insurance and other items in the Board of Regents' budget request, the Governor's proposed general fund increase of \$5 million for operations would leave the University about \$29 million short in the next year alone.

Last week, the Appropriations Committee issued its preliminary budget recommendations, which included a 1.5

percent increase in our budget in each year of the biennium. The committee's recommendation may change during the remainder of the session as it continues to receive new economic information and review state needs. The University's budget hearing before the Appropriations Committee is next week, at which time we will formally present our case. We have been meeting with legislators frequently to discuss the University's budget and, more fundamentally, the University's impact on Nebraska and its importance to a vibrant Nebraska economy.

A bit of a wild card in the budget picture is the recently passed federal stimulus bill. While there is little in the funding provided to the states that will directly benefit the University, the new funds should, at a minimum, have some impact on overall availability of funds for state budget priorities. Nebraska should receive approximately \$290 million from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, most of which will go to K-12 education, with some funding available for a variety of state purposes, including facilities renovation on our campuses. Staff in the State Capitol are trying to determine exactly how the funding may be used and what impact it will have on the biennial budget.

The stimulus bill also includes infrastructure funds which could be used for construction, renovation and deferred maintenance of research facilities, as well as significant new federal research funding, which will be available nationally on a competitive basis. A highlight of the legislation, in my view, is the significantly increased funding for Pell Grants, which will help make a college education more affordable for more Nebraskans.

Also last week, we received a ruling in our collective bargaining negotiations with faculty at UNO and UNK. Personnel costs represent almost 80 percent of our state-aided budget, and these negotiations have obvious implications for those two campuses. Nebraska's bargaining law mandates comparability of salaries to established peer groups. Through arbitration with UNK faculty, the University's recommendation for faculty salary increases of 2.9 percent in 2009-10 and 2.5 percent in 2010-11 – the same as the agreement the Governor reached with state employees – was adopted. In the UNO arbitration, our position was rejected, and an average salary increase of 3.8 percent was awarded for each year of the biennium as well as a new, potentially expensive life insurance benefit. We have until March 15 to appeal this decision, and we are considering what steps, if any, we will take.

As we have done in most years, we may establish a salary pool to provide a common percentage increase for each campus. It is too early in the process to make this determination now. We do know that additional increases beyond the level of

SEE MILLIKEN: PAGE 10

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SPORTS

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PAGE 4

MARCUS HANSEN | SPORTS EDITOR

UNO opens tournament with rematch against Pittsburg State

MICHELLE BISHOP
PHOTO EDITOR

Pittsburg State was on its way to becoming UNO's latest victim Saturday afternoon.

That was until the second half.

The Gorillas outscored the Mavs 50-31 in the final frame and escaped with a 77-70 win that snapped UNO's six-game winning streak and spoiled senior day festivities at Sapp Fieldhouse.

After a strong first half, the Mavs held a 39-27 lead at the break. UNO shot nearly 52 percent from the floor.

The Gorillas (19-8, 14-6 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association) fired back in the second half, trimming UNO's lead to six points when senior Brianna Buchanan hit a jumper to make it 52-46 with 10:24 remaining.

Pitt State grabbed its first second-half lead when senior Candice Gilbert hit a 3 with 4:09 remaining to give the Gorillas a 67-65 advantage. Gilbert, who led the Gorillas with 19 points, scored 11 points in the last 5:33 of the game.

Pitt State's defense held UNO to five points in the last five minutes, including only one shot from the floor.

"We played tough in the first half defensively," Coach Patty Patton Shearer said. "We lost that intensity in the second half. We gave up easy drives; we gave up 50 points in the second half and we can't do that."

Senior LaToya Wright led UNO with 14 points while senior Amanda Brodsack added 11. Juniors Ashley Nelson and Jill Wolf each chipped in eight points while Nelson grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds.

UNO finished the regular season with a record of 15-11 and 11-9 in the MIAA.

The Mavs have the opportunity to avenge their loss as they face the third-seeded Gorillas in the first round of the MIAA tournament at 8:15 p.m. Friday at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo. The Mavs, winners of eight of their last



UNO's Amanda Brodsack fights for control of the ball with Pittsburg State's Caitlin Demarest (left) as Candice Gilbert (right) moves in during Saturday's game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

10 games, earned the sixth seed for their first appearance in the MIAA tournament.

The Gorillas had no problem sending the Mavs home with a 69-56 loss on Jan. 21. But after Saturday's contest, the Mavs know what's necessary if they want to keep their season alive.

"Defense by far. Defense and taking care of the ball," Brodsack said. "If we can handle and control those two, the game is ours."

On Wednesday, Brodsack tied her career high by scoring 24 points as the Mavs won their season-high, sixth-straight game, defeating Missouri Southern State University, 68-57, at the Leggett and Platt Athletic Center in Joplin, Mo.

Seniors Myosha Barnes and Lindsey Davis helped the Lions grab an early lead by scoring Southern's first eight points, and a 3 by senior Danielle DeVader extended the lead to 11-4 after six minutes.

A layup by Davis gave the Lions a 22-14

SEE REMATCH: PAGE 12

Mavericks finish regular season with mixed results

ZACH SEASTEDT
CONTRIBUTOR

Mavs suffer most lopsided loss this season

The UNO men's basketball team entered Wednesday's contest at Missouri Southern State University looking to rebound from a 13-point defeat at the hands of Southwest Baptist, but left Joplin, Mo., with the most lopsided loss of the season, falling to the Lions 107-71.

The Mavericks trailed MSSU for most of the first half, staying within single digits of the Lions. However, a shot by sophomore Skyler Bowlin, with two seconds left, gave MSSU a nine-point lead heading into halftime.

"We weren't really prepared," UNO senior forward Justin Peterson said. "That was a bad game for all of us."

Sophomore guard Mitch Albers finished the game with five points on a 2-for-12 shooting night from the field, including 0-for-7 from the 3-point range. As a team, the Mavericks shot 36 percent from the field and 23 percent from behind the arc.

"We missed a lot of shots," Coach Derrin Hansen said. "We let those missed shots affect our defense."

This was the first game this season in which the Mavericks allowed more than 100 points.

"We seemed like a tired team," Hansen said.

Junior forward Matt Newman led UNO with 16

points. Senior guard Michael Jenkins was the only other Mav to score double figures, with 10 points.

Mavericks end regular season with a win

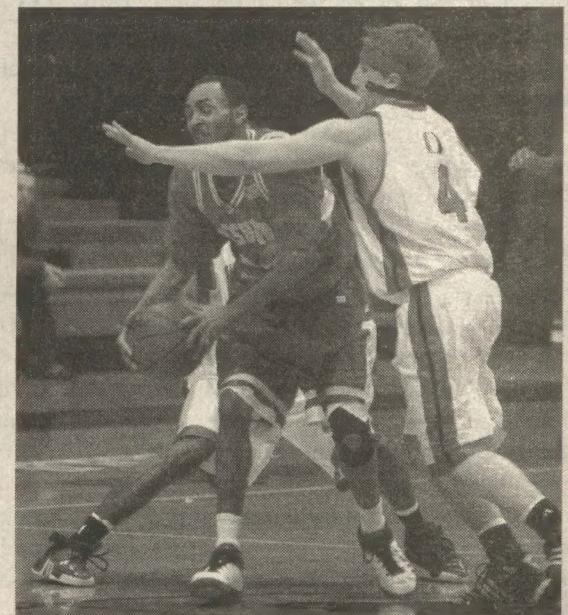
Four Mavericks scored double figures Saturday as UNO closed out the regular season defeating Pittsburg State 86-78 at Sapp Fieldhouse.

Saturday's game marked the final home game for three Maverick seniors: guards Nate Owen, Jenkins and Peterson.

"We wanted to come in and end our year on a good note," Peterson said.

Jenkins scored 20 points to place the Mavs in the lead. Peterson added 14

SEE WOMEN'S: PAGE 12



UNO's Andrew Bridger pressures Pittsburg State's Carlos Taylor during Saturday's game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

Mavs finish eighth in CCHA, host Ferris State to start playoffs

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

The Mavericks will host Ferris State this weekend in a best-of-three series for the first-round of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association Tournament.

After being idle this weekend, the Mavs slipped into eighth place in the conference, as Western Michigan swept Bowling Green over the weekend to edge out seventh.

While Western Michigan earned the same number of conference points as UNO, their 5-3 win over Bowling Green Saturday gave the Broncos nine conference wins to the Mavs' eight, breaking the tie in their favor.

UNO finished the season with a 13-15-8 overall record and an 8-13-7-3 conference record with three shootout wins. The CCHA introduced shootouts to the regular season this year, awarding a second point to the winner of the contest.

After the best start in program history – going 9-2-1 overall and 5-2-1-1 in CCHA play through Nov. 12

– the Mavs are on a school-record 14-game winless streak, having not won a game since Jan. 9.

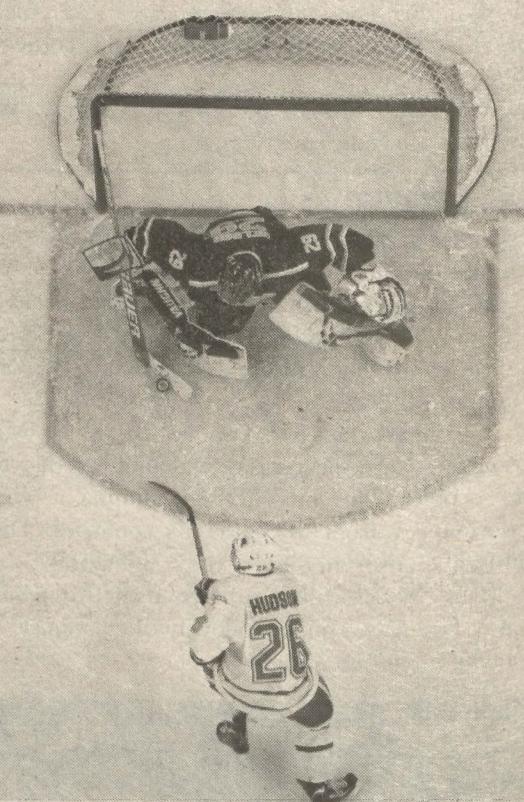
They hope to turn it around against Ferris State, who finished 12-17-7 overall and 9-14-5-2 in CCHA play this season. The Bulldogs hold a 2-1-1-1 record against UNO this season, splitting a series in Omaha and winning and tying another in Big Rapids, Mich.

Ferris State was swept in the weekend's home-and-away series against No. 3 Michigan, who defeated the Bulldogs 6-1 in Big Rapids on Friday and 4-0 in Ann Arbor, Mich on Saturday.

In the case of any first-round upsets, the teams are reseeded to determine match-ups for the second-round series.

In the standings for the rest of the CCHA, Notre Dame (48 conference points), Michigan (40), Miami (40) and Alaska (34) all earned first-round byes in the conference tournament, finishing first through fourth places respectively.

Ohio State (33), Northern Michigan (30) and Western Michigan (26) – fifth through seventh – join the Mavs (26) in hosting first-round contests, while rounding out the conference are Ferris State (25), Lake Superior (21), Michigan State (21) and



Ferris State goaltender Taylor Nelson makes a save on a shot by Alex Hudson during the Nov. 14 game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

Bowling Green (17).

The other first-round pairings are Ohio State – Bowling Green, Northern Michigan – Michigan State and Western Michigan – Lake Superior.

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PAGE 5

TAYLOR MULLER | EDITOR IN CHIEF

Student center soon to be home to UNO Career Center, agencies

Career Center holding annual spring job fair for soon-to-be UNO graduates



The Career Center will be taking over the space formerly occupied by Multicultural Affairs on the first floor of the Milo Bail Student Center. (SCOTT STEWART/THE GATEWAY)

TAYLOR MULLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After a little shuffling around of offices and departments, several student agencies and services will have a new home in the middle of the Milo Bail Student Center by mid-April.

While the shift is only across the hall for several student agencies, for the Career Center, it's a significant move into the center of student life.

Focused on providing career assistance and support, the Career Center, formerly called Career Exploration and Outreach, assists thousands of students with their professional endeavors.

Until the move, the center is located in

Eppley Administration Building Room 211.

"We're very excited to be more connected to the students," said Michelle Perone, director of the Career Center. "We're going to be much more a part of student life, with greater exposure, visibility and outreach."

The Career Center works to develop relationships between its students and community employers and alumni to explore career possibilities. Services include mock interviews, resume reviews, job hunting and networking assistance.

Wade Robinson, associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs, said renovation of the new area would begin around March 15, with completion expected in four to five weeks.

SEE MILO BAIL: PAGE 6

PKI center prepares students for job hunt, networking with professionals



Doug Bahle, director of the Peter Kiewit Institute Career Resource Center, helps construction management senior Dave Hron, left, perfect his resume. (CAITRIN SHIRAZI/THE GATEWAY)

NICHOLE CROUSE
STAFF WRITER

Mario Bosiljevac has worked both sides of the job-search spectrum.

With a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering, Bosiljevac, who is working on her master's degree, has interviewed for positions several times. With her current company, she has also interviewed students hunting for jobs.

The Peter Kiewit Institute's Career Resource Center was a valuable resource for Bosiljevac when she was searching for

her current job.

"It's that opportunity to interact and meet people in the industry and see what they have to say, and it's only through that connection with the career center that that would happen," Bosiljevac said. "I would get the opportunity to hear what they're doing and talk about what I'm doing and get a feel for those differences."

The Career Resource Center was developed as a way for students to meet and network with industry professionals

SEE PKI: PAGE 6

CAITRIN SHIRAZI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UNO Spring 2009 Job Fair will take place March 10 and March 11 in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom. The fair lasts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days.

The UNO Career Center hosts job fairs on campus in the spring and fall of each school year. The spring fair will feature over 110 companies eagerly looking for candidates to fill open positions and internships. The first day of the fair, March 10, will feature non-profit organizations with positions available in fields such as government- and university-related and health care. The next day will feature numerous for-profit organizations.

The Career Center's Annual Sponsorship Program allows employers to partner with UNO to provide the campus community with broader ranges of career development services.

Annual sponsors involved in this year's

fair are Union Pacific, InterPublic Group, Gallup, Mutual of Omaha, Securities America, Applied Underwriters, Sitel, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, TD Ameritrade, UPS, First National Bank, Streck, Farm Bureau Financial Services, Harrah's Entertainment, ConAgra, Northwestern Mutual, C & A Industries INC., Exxon Mobil, InfoUSA and National Indemnity Company.

The Career Center helps students and alumni explore career opportunities and aid them in creating and developing partnerships with employers as well as the community.

Students and alumni who are genuinely interested in advancing their potential and starting their careers in the immediate future are encouraged to attend the fair.

Professional attire is expected and those attending should bring several copies of their current resume.

More information on the fair can be found at unoceo.unomaha.edu.



Brent Goode, left, Nebraska's office manager of Aflac insurance company, explains the future growth of the company to students Laurie Dutcher, middle, and Tracey LaPiazza at last year's spring job fair in the Milo Bail Student Center. (JOE SHEARER/THE GATEWAY)

Top 10 recession-proof jobs

COMMENTARY BY
TIM KING
YOUNG MONEY MAGAZINE

(MCT) — With so many layoffs and economic woes, it may seem like a frightening time to look for work. But here are 10 careers that have staying power in the face of the recession.

Headhunter

One company's layoff is another's splash in the potential employee pool. Because of downsizing, there are qualified people out there without jobs and now is a great time to find them, pick them up and place them somewhere. Both sides win.

Bartender

While the restaurant business may be floundering, bars won't exactly boom, but they will be the first place people stop after getting the boot. Hey, people drink more when times are tough.

Software / Network Development

As new companies continue to grow, they need people to develop software for them to use and networks for them to communicate with. Companies need quality communication systems and programs to help them run as or more efficiently than competing companies.

Finance Adviser

After unprecedented amounts of financial scandals and poor fiscal management blunders surface, people and professionals alike will crack down on bookkeeping.

Repo Man

Sadly, as more and more people fall on hard times, they will have to start giving up their possessions in order to make ends meet. The repossession industry will reap the benefits.

Collection Agents

Companies are going belly-up left and right. The ones that don't want to will try as hard as they can to keep their books clean, both legally and financially. Collection agencies will have no shortage of clients as more and more companies try to clean up.

Military/Government Jobs

More and more service members overseas are extending their tours so they don't have to face the bleak job market back home. The government will always need people to keep it functioning. Plus, government jobs are harder to get fired from and the benefits can be sweet,

SEE JOBS: PAGE 6

Tough economy makes finding entry-level work more difficult for graduates

MARK REAGAN
STAFF WRITER

Today's economy is in a recession. Industries are hurting, and hiring is declining. The effects have been wide ranging and affected many segments of society.

College graduates are no exception and neither is UNO.

Joey Hesse began his career at UNO as a transfer student. He speaks Arabic, French and English. Last spring, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science and international studies.

Being trilingual, having knowledge of international governments and cultivating strong writing and communication skills made him a strong candidate for an important job.

However, the mist of graduation has settled and truth rolled in like a train for Hesse, who is faced with the challenge of repaying student loans.

This reality, Hesse said, "made me feel like there was no point in college and now that I'm done, I have to pay my student loans back with a crappy job. Do you know how hard that's going to be with a crappy job?"

Omaha's employment rate for entry-level workers is expected to be down 8 percent, said Michelle Perone, director of UNO's Career Center. And even that may be a "conservative estimate," she cautioned.

Perone said when compared to other states for entry level hiring, 8 percent is not too bad. California, for example, is expected to be down 13 percent.

Hesse reacted to his situation by hopping from job to job, ending up at a temporary work agency, where he got a position in PayPal's kitchen. Stories like his are not unusual in today's tumultuous economy.

Hesse was feeling the negatives of the economy, but has been able to survive through the restaurant industry in this hostile climate.

Both Perone and Hesse agree that having a positive outlook is very important during these times, especially for recent graduates.

"Even though the economy is not that great right now, don't get totally discouraged, because there are still companies that are hiring," Perone said.

The Career Center talks with six to eight companies a day, Perone said. She listed accounting jobs, technology jobs and restaurant hospitality as places of growth.

"The best thing about UNO is that we are in a metropolitan area," Perone said. "That gives it a little advantage for hiring."

Still, there are industries, like banking and any other employers that deal with banking, that are more affected by the recession, Perone said. There have been layoffs at First National Bank and other local companies.

You see a trickledown effect because companies don't want to downsize, so they limit or cut out entry-level position hiring, Perone said.

The university is currently studying the trend in how many graduates are hired

after attending UNO. The numbers they see right now indicate approximately a 6 percent decline, Perone said.

"That's not that bad and we're encouraged by that," she said.

Compared to other states, Nebraska's workforce is doing fine, Perone said. South Dakota, for example, has seen an 18 percent decline.

She stressed the comparison of Omaha's lesser situation regarding recession and the rest of the country.

Because the recession is affecting some industries and not others, graduates from the colleges of UNO may experience different reactions to the declining economy.

Graduates in the College of Business are doing OK because of accounting and finance, Perone said. So are College of Education students, because it is a service-based industry and teachers are always in demand.

College of Arts and Sciences graduates are playing a different ballgame, though, because of the diversity of degrees available within the college itself, Perone said. A graduate may not be able to find a job in their specific field, but skills like writing and communication lend themselves to today's job market.

"Writing and communication are imperative," Perone said. "You have to look at all the options. You can't have blinders on in an economy that's unstable."

Perone encouraged students to be willing to look beyond their major field of study and utilize the writing, communication and other

Over 3 million jobs lost in a year

Since the start of the recession in December 2007, 3.6 million jobs have been lost.



particular skills they have learned in college. Often, skills can be adapted to jobs students may not have originally considered.

It is also important to use resources available like the Career Center on campus to learn and increase the chances of securing employment after graduation, Perone said.

The Career Center currently has 2,900 contacts in the metro area. The center actively finds and communicates with employers who work with students.

Nevertheless, the work put into a degree is very taxing on people – and debt is very real. After all that work, many graduates expect to find a job in the field they have invested so much time and money in studying.

Meanwhile, Hesse will keep trying to land that perfect job.

"I feel disheartened. A college education is nothing more than a prerequisite for any job – period," Hesse said. However, "being angry doesn't get you anywhere."

will include push button power assist doors, glass windows and office setups. Currently, cubical walls divide the vacant space from NdS' small computer lab.

"As a matter of fact, everything has been positive, because they were split up, we had WRC and multicultural affairs and ISS and GSO clear across the hall with no central continuity or togetherness, so to speak," Robinson said. "From what I've heard, we got very good space for the NdS folks and the other folks; they're centralized and together and attached to Student Government now."



The Career Resource Center, located in Peter Kiewit Institute Room 391, offers engineering and information science students career preparation, internships and job placement services. (CAITRIN SHIRAZI/THE GATEWAY)

FROM PKI: PAGE 5

and prepare for job searches and their careers, said director Doug Bahle. The center offers a more personalized service than online job searches, with companies that network through the university.

"The primary goal is to work with our students, to be sure that as they proceed through the curriculum here in any of our programs – either in the engineering side or the [information science and technology] side – are as well prepared as they could possibly be to find and succeed in internships, and upon graduation, in a job in a career field they have selected," Bahle said.

The center, located in Room 391 of the institute, offers many services to help students prepare for job interviews or meet with industry professionals specific to their degree.

Among the services offered are mock interviews where, for about the first 20 minutes, students participate in a group interview proctored by different area professionals. For the next 20 minutes or so, students receive feedback on their resume and interview.

The next mock interview session is scheduled for Tuesday.

"We bring in business partners that are actively recruiting our students, and they are the ones that conduct the interviews," Bahle said.

The center also provides resume advice. Students can either bring their resume into Bahle or e-mail it to him at dbahle@nufoundation.org. From there, Bahle helps students with the editing process with suggestions and formatting advice.

Bosiljevac said she took advantage of Bahle's help when she was getting her resume together.

"That initial moment of creating your resume, or editing your resume – going back and forth, looking it over – really it's a good dialogue," Bosiljevac said. "You mock it up, send it in and he sends it back,

you go in and you talk about it. It really helps just refine that process."

Apart from helping students edit their resumes and prepare for an interview, the center gives students the opportunity to interact with thousands of businesses within the engineering and technology industries. Bahle provides students e-mail notifications when jobs and internships within their field become available.

The involvement of employers in the career center has increased tremendously. In 2001, the center was in contact with about 120 businesses. In 2008, the Career Resource Center was in communication with more than 1,150 businesses.

"The first year I came here in 2001, from the career center, we sent out to our students on these lists 57 jobs, I remember thinking, at the end of the year, 57 – that's a job a week," Bahle said. "Last year, there were 2,004."

One of the ways employers interact with students is through the Business Information and Opportunities for Students program, or BIOS.

Through the program, a company sets up a booth for students to meet with employers during the day. The company schedules a luncheon, where interested students are notified and send in their resumes. The company then selects students to participate in the luncheon.

Although the Career Resource Center offers many opportunities to meet with professionals, and prepare for interviews, it's up to students to take advantage of what is available. Bosiljevac had the opportunity to interview current students with her company at a career fair, and felt that students could become more professional if they used the center more.

"I don't feel students use it really well," Bosiljevac said. "I think that somehow there could be a way to lure students in so they use it more, so they do realize that unless they practice their skills they're not going to be hired."

FROM JOBS: PAGE 5

especially for those with families.

Nursing and Pharmaceuticals

I'm sure you've heard it before: the baby boomers are getting old. In the coming years, there will be a seemingly endless realm of potential patients to treat, and the nursing career and pharmaceutical industry will ride the wave high.

Truck Driver

It's not for everyone, but it's a time-tested and classic profession. People are always going to need stuff, and that stuff will need to get places.

Most of the time you will get a certain amount of time off for a certain amount of

miles completed, which can mean lots of down time for rest and personal projects, and the medical and retirement benefits are a plus as well.

Fundraiser

Asking for money is an idea that makes many people shudder, especially when everyone seems so tight. But with green jobs on a possible brink of booming and city planning expanding, companies and contractors are going to need people to raise funds.

Besides, if you're a good fundraiser you will have good enough relationships with your donors that asking for money shouldn't be a big issue.

FROM MILO BAIL: PAGE 5

"On the west side of the wall, it will still be connected to the Student Government area, but we put all the student agencies together," Robinson said.

The agencies of Student Government – American Multicultural Student Agency, International Student Services, Network for DisAbled Students, Women's Resource Center and Gender and Sexual Orientation – will share the space with the Career Center.

In addition to a dividing wall, renovations

If's a JUNGLE Out There!

The UNO
Career Center
is hosting a

job fair

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Milo Bail Student Center, 2nd Floor Ballroom

March 10

Government, University, Hospitality,
Healthcare, and Non-Profit Organizations

March 11

For-Profit Organizations

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

For information on participating
employers visit: unoceo.unomaha.edu

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HARRAH'S
ENTERTAINMENT

Fashion show to offer tips on what to wear to an interview, on the job

KRISTIN HAWTHORNE
CONTRIBUTOR

The UNO chapter of Delta Epsilon Iota, an honor society for career development, along with the Career Center will be hosting the Dress for Success Fashion Show on March 4.

The event, which begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Thompson Alumni Center Bootstrapper Hall, will demonstrate the different types of professional attire UNO students can wear for their future careers.

The evening will be divided into two parts, business professional wear and business casual wear.

The professional clothing to be modeled will consist of suits and accessories appropriate for interviews, said Michelle Perone, director of the Career Center. Business casual wear, on the other hand, includes everyday office clothing.

Although it may not seem as important as other elements such as experience, education and work ethic, Perone said employers do notice how job applicants dress.

"One of the things we hear from employers is that UNO students do dress professionally," Perone said.

The hosts of the Dress for Success Fashion Show are simply looking to reinforce what is already an impeccable professional image, Perone said. They also hope to persuade students not to feel their personal style has to be suppressed in order to dress professionally.

"A classic suit can be dressed up with a shirt, tie or accessory with your favorite pattern or color," Perone said.

Ann Taylor Loft, The Limited, Gap and J.C. Penney are only a few of the local stores



HECTOR CASANOVA/KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

that have committed to donating clothes in support of the show. The clothes will be modeled by students from Delta Epsilon Iota and Agency 89 model management.

Besides this one-time event, the Career Center, formerly known as Career Exploration and Outreach, also offers free resume reviews, mock interviewing and the online job-posting system, Maverick Hire Wire.

Students are also invited to attend the upcoming Spring Job Fair on March 10 and March 11 in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom on the second floor from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Broadcasting students get career training boost from Verizon Wireless: cell phones

RYAN WILCH
CONTRIBUTOR

Over the next few years, communication majors will have to adapt to many advances in technology.

Not only are the prospects brighter for broadcasting students, but also as wireless technology advances, reporting live may become easier thanks to a donation from Verizon Wireless.

"Verizon donated four phones and three air cards to use each semester on 'The Omaha News,'" said Michael Hilt, assistant dean and professor of communication.

"In addition, one dozen phones will be sent to us for use on the Omaha mayor and city council primary election coverage April 7."

The April 7 election special isn't the first time UNO students have had the opportunity to cover a live event using Verizon technology.

During the 2008 Presidential Election, students used the donated air cards and webcams on notebook computers to broadcast live from various locations throughout Nebraska.

"We were able to send reporters down to Lincoln to Mike Johann's headquarters, where they were having their celebration, to Scott Kleeb's headquarters and to the place in Omaha where the Democrats were meeting," said Chris Allen, associate professor and executive director of "The Omaha News."

"We were able to do live video reports from those places with the camera on the



director for "The Omaha News" election coverage, agreed that the lack of broadband speed hurt the broadcast.

"It made things blurry and slow, but that might be because we didn't have an external webcam. Also, with it being election night, everyone in the world was probably on the internet."

Nevertheless, White said that the experience was invaluable to the students.

"To be able to practice a live shot is something very important for reporters, especially in television broadcast where they need to learn how to talk to the camera and to the audience at the same time," he said.

"We rely on industry to help support the need for state-of-the-art media technology and equipment," said Jeremy Lipschultz, director of the School of Communication.

"Some in the industry already have begun to use Internet streaming video for live shots. Our pilot program at UNO is a model for the nation's university broadcasting programs."

Gateway guide to dressing for success

JARED SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

For a generation of individuals used to venturing out of the house in pajamas and house slippers, finding the right professional attire can be a rather challenging issue that needs some serious attention.

First impressions are often lasting ones, and hitting the mark with proper work and interview attire is vital to college students. The right or wrong outfit can seal the deal or sink the ship on an internship or job opportunity.

Ethel Williams, a professor in the School of Public Administration and graduate program chair for the master's in Public Administration Program, said personal appearance is extremely important for students venturing into the professional world.

Because the external self is what a person sees first before they get to know you, your level of knowledge or what you can bring to the table, Williams said.

"If they're immediately turned off, then they don't ever get to know you," Williams said.

Williams said for students already employed it's different because the employer already knows that individual and their skills. However, appearance should always remain presentable.

"If you interact with the public, it is important, because you convey the sense of seriousness as well as what the organization is about," Williams said.

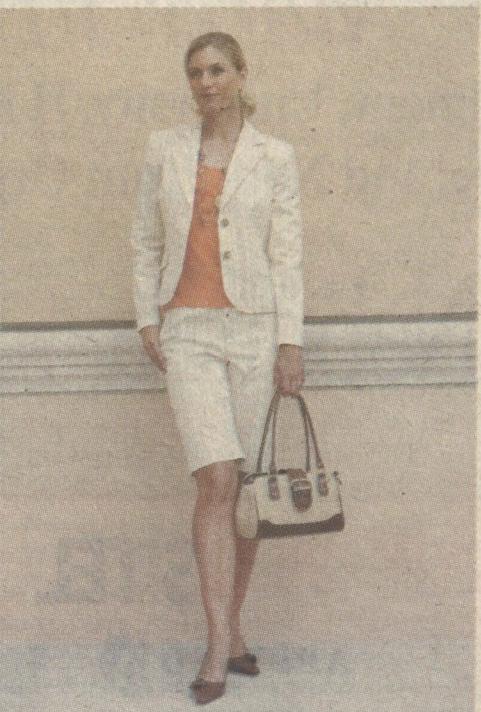
Senior Emily Anderson agreed. She worked at Banana Republic as a sales representative for four years, but is now a supervisor at Scooters and an ACT tutor for Kaplan Test Prep.

"When people look professional, not only do they make the environment feel more professional, [but] their attitudes are in the right place and they feel better about themselves," Anderson said. "And, when a person feels better about themselves, they're going to be more productive."

During interviews, Anderson said when people had worn clothes that were haphazardly thrown together, dirty or wrinkled, along with women revealing too much skin, it really bothered her.

For both males and females, clothes that are overly suggestive - like women in skirts or tops that are either too short or low cut, or men in pants that are too tight or shirts unbuttoned too far down - are major turn offs, Williams said.

"Loud garish colors draw too much



SARA A. FAJARDO/ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

attention - like neon oranges, neon greens and loud hot pinks," she said.

Williams suggested putting a neon green blouse under a black blazer with a pair of slacks, that it's more toned-down and appealing to the interviewer.

"I think if we look at basic colors when

we go on an interview - browns, blacks, grays, navy blues and khaki for bottoms, and just a basic colored shirt - then you are fine," she added.

Williams said she always tells her students that less is more.

"[Students should] dress in something that is congruent with the job that they're looking for. If you are going for a management job, you might dress a little different than if you were going to go fry some French fries."

But feeling confident in your attire is just as important as thinking about the expectations of the employer, Anderson said.

"You have to keep in mind what you feel the best in and what gives you a really good feeling of positivity that I am worth the job, and that outfit's going to show them why I'm worth it, because that outfit is going to make me feel good about



NICK KOON/ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/MCT

myself," Anderson said.

Williams stressed that even though students want to stand out from the crowd of other potential employees, in the workplace, you don't want to look too different from everyone else.

Williams said a conservative look is the best route.

"I think the neater you are makes you stand out," Williams said. "We have become a very casual society, especially in the Midwest. If we have a button-down shirt and a tie or a pair of dress slacks, a shirt and a jacket, then I think you stand out, because most people are going to come in with maybe a pair of jeans and a blazer or just a polo."

Anderson argued that fit is also key in finding the perfect work-appropriate ensemble.

"[For students] making sure that their clothing fits their body is important, because nothing looks worse than clothes that don't compliment a girl's or a guy's figure," Anderson said.

Even with the right fit, finding the balance between comfort, style and appropriateness can still be overwhelming.

"I think when in doubt about what is appropriate, just remember simple is better, Williams said. "[With] a simple pair of pants and a simple shirt, you can't go wrong. People are looking for neatness and cleanliness above all."

While clothing plays a large role in first impressions, Anderson said personality is even more important.

"I will completely lose interest in anyone if they have a negative expression [on their face]," she said. "You're not going to get a second look. Wear the smile and make that part of the outfit. The smile's

ENTERTAINMENT

ANDREA BARBE | ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

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ENTERTAINMENT@UNOGATEWAY.COM | MARCH 3, 2009

March Events Calendar

COMPILED BY
ANDREA BARBE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

MARCH 4 – UNO Theatre presents “Waiting for Godot,” a tragic comedy by Samuel Beckett. Performances run through March 8. To purchase tickets, call 554-2335 or stop by the box office on the first floor of the Weber Fine Arts Building Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

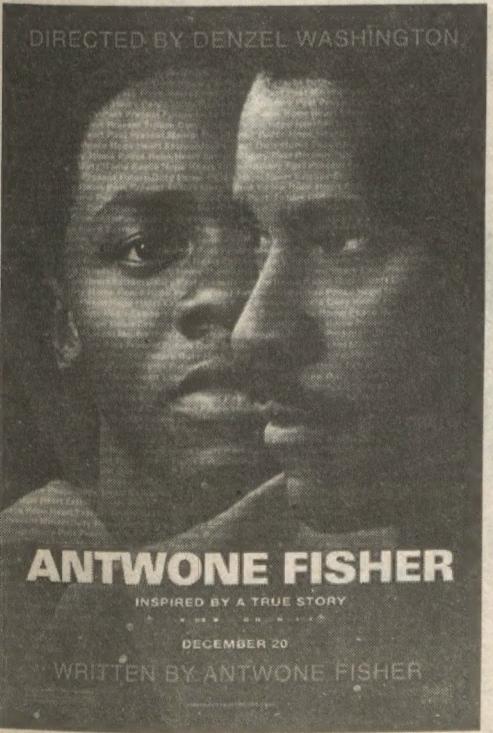
MARCH 6 – The Barley Street Tavern in Benson presents local rockers 49 Cents. The band’s singer, drummer and lead guitarist are all UNO alumni. Tickets are \$5 at the door, with the show beginning at 9 p.m.

MARCH 7 – “Meeting of the Rails: A ‘Golden Spike Days’ Photo Retrospective” will be on display at the Durham Museum. Durham and the Union Pacific Railroad Museum partnered together to create a photo display that will be available for viewing through July 19.

MARCH 8 – Singer/songwriter Howie Day performs at the Waiting Room for an 8 p.m. show. Tickets cost \$20 and can be purchased through etix.com.

MARCH 10 – Film Streams and Project Harmony present the movie “Antwone Fisher,” the true story of a Navy cadet who’s recovering from a childhood filled with physical and sexual abuse. The movie begins at 6 p.m. in the Ruth Sokolof Theater, located at 1340 Webster St., and will be immediately followed with a discussion from the film’s author and screenwriter Antwone Fisher.

MARCH 11 – The UNO School of Public Administration presents “Workshop on Becoming a Leader We Need” at 9 a.m. in room 132D of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service Building. Michael Maccoby, an international expert on leadership, will host the event that is free and open to all students, faculty and staff. To reserve a seat, visit <http://www.unomaha.edu/enotes/2009/img/maccoby>.



pdf. For more information, contact Rhonda Sheibal-Carver at 554-2625.

MARCH 11 – UNO will host The Moving Company’s Centennial photo exhibit, “A Legacy of Dancers: 1935-2008,” on the first floor of the Criss Library. A reception will be held at 4 p.m. with a dance performance at 4:30 p.m.

MARCH 13 – Irish Poet Desmond Egan comes to UNO to share some of his work. This event starts at noon in the Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room and is sponsored by Maverick Productions.



LITTLEBRAZIL.COM

MARCH 13 – The Mid-America Center Arena hosts Disney’s “High School Musical: The Ice Tour.” Performances run through March 15. For tickets, call Ticketmaster or stop by the Mid-America Center box office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MARCH 15 – Canadian band Tokyo Police Club, along with Ra Ra Riot and Ruby Coast, plays at the Slowdown. The show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

MARCH 17 – The Slowdown presents Australian singer/songwriter Missy Higgins for an 8 p.m. concert. Tickets are \$18 and can be purchased through etix.com.

MARCH 17 – Rock bands Nickelback, Seether and Saving Abel perform at the Qwest Center Arena for a 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$40 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster.

MARCH 24 – The UNO School of Social Work will host a book launch of “The Grace Abbott Reader.” John Sorensen, the book’s editor, will speak at this event, which starts at 5 p.m. in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service Building Collaborating Commons. The book launch is free and open to the public.

MARCH 25 – The César E. Chávez Celebration will be held in the Milo Bail Student Center’s Nebraska Room. Chávez was a Mexican American farmer and civil rights activist. This event starts at noon. For more information, call 554-2711.

MARCH 28 – Little Brazil’s CD Release show featuring Eagle Seagull, Roman Numerals and Noah’s Ark Was A Spaceship will be held at the Waiting Room lounge. Tickets are \$7 and the show kicks off at 9 p.m.

'Street Fighter IV' good mix of old, new school

AJ HURST
THE MANEATER, U. MISSOURI

With “Street Fighter IV,” everything old is new again. American arcades have long since gone the way of the dodo, but Capcom is making a conscious effort to recapture the magic of throwing down quarters on an arcade cabinet.

The occasion of this game’s release feels nothing if not momentous; 10 years have passed since the last proper entry. “Street Fighter IV” draws its inspiration from the “Street Fighter II” series of games, forsaking any gameplay evolution (and characters) from the “3rd Strike” arc. “Street Fighter II” is certainly the series to pick when replicating the arcade atmosphere, but the core gameplay takes many steps backwards in the process.

When you’ve grown accustomed to the new coat of paint, it hits you: they just made “Street Fighter II” again. The only substantial new combat mechanic, the Focus Attack, is an unblockable strike allowing players to absorb a hit without flinching. It is a welcome addition, but otherwise very little has changed in the way of tactics. Many expected “Street Fighter IV” to revitalize the fighting genre for a modern era, but how can it do so while sticking to its ancestor’s blueprint?

On the other hand, a contingent of devoted fans will view the “they just made ‘Street Fighter II’ again” sentiment in a totally different light. Online gaming and



fighters haven’t gotten along so well in the past, marred by infuriating lag on button inputs, but “Street Fighter IV” gets it right. It actually brings real competition to a global scale without sacrificing in-game performance. This alone should get hardcore fighting fans riled up.

“Street Fighter IV” cannot, however, escape the less-than-optimal performance of standard game controllers. Neither d-pads nor analog sticks are reliable for pulling off the game-changing super and ultra combos. Nothing sucks more than failing to execute a Mitsu Hadouken because you accidentally tapped an intermittent direction on the stick.

A pricey and rare arcade-style joystick may be the only option should you decide to stick with the game. And like any good

SEE FIGHTER: PAGE 12



Shifting Books at CRISS Library (We really mean it this time!)

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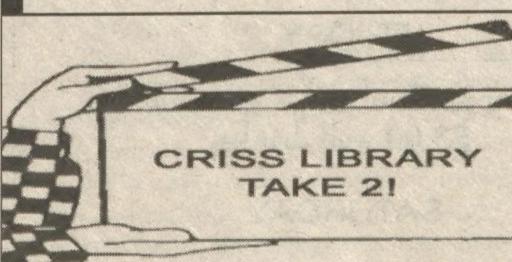
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FROM MILLIKEN: PAGE 3

the pool, if any, will be the responsibility of each campus.

Budget principles and planning

The Chancellors and I have been meeting regularly to discuss University-wide and campus approaches to expected budget reallocations and reductions. As I announced in my December 1 letter, the first step in this process has been to conserve funds during the current fiscal year so they can be used to offset shortfalls until permanent reductions are in place for the next fiscal year. For both temporary and permanent reductions, we are guided by principles we believe necessary to maintain the quality of the University.

We have not instituted arbitrary measures such as hiring freezes, as have some of our peers in states with more severe economic conditions. Instead, I have asked that each hire receive an additional level of review to ensure that it is necessary to achieve our priorities. It is my view that we must continue to make strategic decisions, including in some cases making new investments and new hires, to advance our priorities and keep this University moving forward. While personnel expenditures are by far the largest part of each campus's budget, each campus has also been asked to review non-personnel operating expenses, looking for opportunities for savings in travel, utilities and other areas.

The process for permanent budget reductions is necessarily deliberative, requires the involvement of many throughout the institution, and differs somewhat on each of our campuses. There are, however, common schedules, requirements, and principles that guide our planning and ultimate decisions.

I will submit a 2009-10 budget to the Board of Regents for approval at its June 12 meeting, and I will make allocations to the campuses shortly after that meeting. Following that, each Chancellor will make campus allocations, consistent with the

Board of Regents' budget and my allocation guidelines. Each Chancellor has been asked to follow a process now that will enable him to make, with appropriate involvement from the faculty and campus community, timely decisions on the 2009-10 budget.

Our decisions should adhere to priorities adopted by the Legislature, the Board of Regents in the University's Strategic Framework, as well as campus role and mission and strategic plans. It is instructive to consider statutory language regarding our mission: "It is recognized that as the state's land grant institution the University of Nebraska is engaged in instruction, research, and public service, and that these three parts of the university's mission are interdependent. However, when viewed in its entirety, the university's first priority shall be undergraduate instruction, the university's second priority shall be graduate and professional instruction and research, and the university's third priority shall be public service."

The six major goals of the University's Strategic Framework provide important guidance especially at a time when we are most challenged to sustain and advance our most important priorities.

1. Our first priority is to ensure affordable access for Nebraskans to a quality university education, and budget decisions about tuition, fees, and financial aid will reflect this goal. As a general matter, we will not balance the University's budget with high tuition increases – and particularly not for resident undergraduates. In addition, significant increases in course, lab, and general fees will be approved only to the extent necessary and only after careful review and justification. Finally, we will not only maintain our current level of commitment to financial aid, I fully expect we will have additional aid available from a number of sources.

2. A second, integrally related goal is support for the delivery of high quality academic programs. This means first that

academic programs generally have priority. It is highly unlikely, however, that all academic programs, which together make up approximately 75 percent of the state-aided budget, can be held harmless. To the extent possible, budget reductions will be targeted (i.e., vertical); cuts which affect all programs equally (horizontal) tend to weaken the entire University. Campuses should look to University and campus priorities and consult program reviews and other information such as numbers of enrollments and majors to help guide decisions. Ultimately, however, decisions must involve judgments about priorities for the University. Investments by the Board and President in University-wide initiatives such as Programs of Excellence, which are examples of such priorities, will not be reduced.

3. The University will support its goal of developing a well-educated workforce for the knowledge-based 21st century economy. The first, fundamental element of this goal is to continue efforts to increase the college-going rate in Nebraska and specifically, increase enrollment across the University. Not only does this help achieve important state goals, but under the University's budget allocation model, it increases campus revenue. Campuses should look for opportunities to increase revenue and increasing enrollment, including nonresident enrollment, is one important such opportunity.

4. We will continue to support research that builds on our strengths, has the greatest potential to attract the best faculty and students to the University, and supports the development of an innovation economy in Nebraska.

5. Public – and especially land-grant – universities have an important mission of engaging with citizens and communities across the state. We take this mission very seriously, but as with all areas of operation, we must continue to evaluate how successful and cost-effective we are in our methods of delivery. For instance, technology and distance learning programs may in some cases provide the most efficient ways of serving the state.

6. Finally, and especially important at times such as this, we must operate the University in a way that is efficient as well as effective, transparent and accountable. Nebraskans make a great investment in this University, and we must spend those funds wisely. In addition, savings in areas that are not central to our mission will allow us to invest more in areas that are. We are a system of four unique campuses;

our differences should provide opportunities for us to have complementary programs and activities and avoid unnecessary redundancy, while our similarities should provide opportunities for common business and support operations. We have made some progress in this regard in recent years, but we are still far from a leadership position. The goal is not consolidation for its own sake, but cost savings in order to meet the preceding goals. To be able to invest more in classroom instruction, in research, and in faculty and student support, we must take more seriously efforts to consolidate and streamline and eliminate some business and support functions. I understand that it might be desirable – all things being equal – to have responsibility for every function reside on each campus (and I understand also that each activity has a constituency), but that is a luxury I do not think we can afford.

Schedule and future updates

These are some key milestones that will impact future communications and decisions:

Feb. 27: Forecasting board meets to update revenue forecast

March 3: University budget hearing

March 15: Deadline for appeal of special master's ruling in collective bargaining

Late April: Final revenue forecast before budget is adopted

By April 29: Budget bill required to be reported to the floor of the Legislature

By May 18: Anticipated final action on state budget

June 12: Board of Regents meeting at which University budget is adopted and tuition rates set for 2009-10

June 19: Campus allocations made by President

I recognize that everyone affected wants to know as much as possible, but at this point there are still many uncertainties. I will try to keep the University community informed, primarily through my frequent discussions with the Chancellors who are leading budget efforts on their campuses and occasionally through communications such as this.

I remain optimistic about the future of the University of Nebraska. This is an outstanding institution, and it is that way because of so many people who have devoted their considerable talents to it. I recognize that you are as committed to this University as I am, and I thank you for all you do.

*James B. Milliken
NU President*

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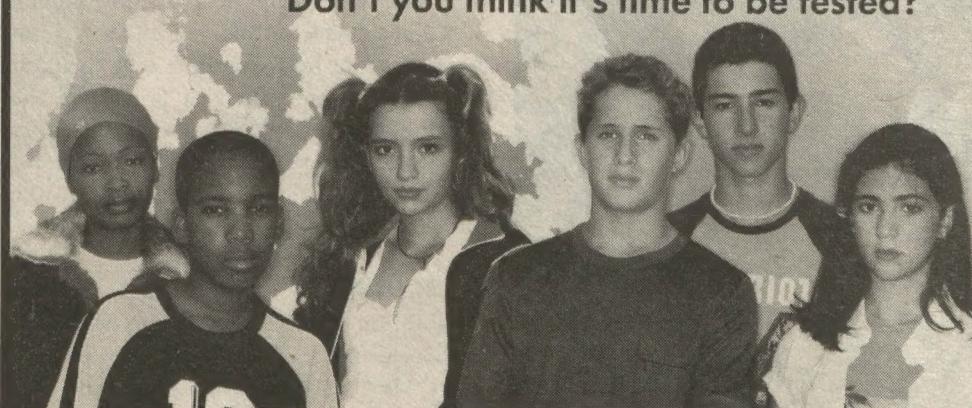
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OPINION

ERIK PETERSON | OPINION EDITOR

PAGE 11

OPINION@UNOGATEWAY.COM | MARCH 3, 2009

Obama copters: How many is too many?

We criticized corporate bigwigs when they flew in multi-million dollar jets to Washington, D.C., to ask for bailout money. Now America's CEO must weigh a similar decision: whether to spend \$11.2 billion in taxpayer money on a brand new fleet of presidential helicopters. 28 to be exact.

Each copter costs \$400 million, which is about the same price as Air Force One.

Several companies competed for the contract to build the helicopters. Lockheed Martin was awarded the contract but since then the price has almost doubled. Sounds like it's time for the government to start shopping around.

Lockheed Martin isn't the only fish in the sea. Other companies, such as Sikorsky Aircraft, are able to live up to the Pentagon's requests to create helicopters secure enough to jam seeking devices and strong enough to withstand a nuclear blast.

In the post-Sept. 11 world legitimate threats lurk everywhere. Obviously, national security is a high priority. But does Obama really need 28 brand new helicopters when previous presidents made do with 19?

The New York Times reported that the helicopters are used almost everywhere the President goes. Plus, he is usually accompanied by one or two other copters that carry staff members and serve as decoys.

But there is only one U.S. president - he can only be one place at a time. Honestly, what can anyone do with 28 helicopters that they couldn't do with 19 or less?

Days of analog television are numbered

The days of analog are doomed and my rabbit ears pick up fewer channels.

I am down to ABC which is odd because, for the previous month, all I received was CBS, which is now completely gone. But, ABC tries. It struggles to be seen against the ever-increasing flutters of static and snow. There is almost no point in watching. The only reason I do is to try to catch the weather and the evening news.

The great and all-knowing authorities in Congress have decided that analog is no longer an adequate means for receiving television broadcasts. Digital is better. Digital is the golden boy. Now all signals will be transmitted digitally instead of through analog. My rabbit ears will be useless, my television obsolete.

The date for the digital transition was February 17 but it doesn't really matter because Congress pushed back the date for the transition to June 12.

In order to receive the digital signal people who don't have cable must buy converter boxes to receive the broadcast. Congress had issued coupons for the boxes but not enough. That's why the deadline was delayed. Major stations do have a right to stop broadcasting analog already and I think that's why I don't get CBS anymore.



Judy Rydberg

"In this economy, I believe it's a foolish investment," said former Marine One pilot Lt. Col. Gene Boyer on "CBS News Up to the Minute." "Going beyond 14 or 16 [helicopters] is absolutely ludicrous."

I realize \$11.2 billion is a mere drop in the bucket of our nation's budget. However, in this economy, every drop counts.

These turbulent economic times require a balance between security and sensible spending. Tough choices are necessary for everyone, from the President to the rest of us.

Readers may think I'm a conservative who seldom appreciates any government spending. On the contrary, I'm a die-hard Democrat. I just think this particular purchase is like feasting on filet mignon at a time when we should be slurping Ramen Noodles.

But let's not blame the Obama administration and their so-called wasteful liberal spending just yet. The Bush administration actually got the ball rolling on this spending spree when Bush's chief of staff, Andrew Card, decided he didn't like how one of the 19 choppers ran.

Regardless of who started it, it's now up to the Obama administration to finish it.

As we speak, Defense Secretary Robert Gates is pondering this extravagant Marine One makeover. He might decide to give it the green or red light. He may try to reopen bidding on the copter contract and see if another company could make more reasonable negotiations.

Let's keep our fingers crossed that the powers that be won't suck money we don't have through the blades of 28 unneeded helicopters.

So, I am left with maybe two months to watch George Stephanopoulos ramble on ABC, and occasionally catch some public television.

I now have time to think about the change to digital and what it means to me. Personally, I am going to let television go. I am not going to buy a converter box.

I asked myself a fundamental question: Do I really need TV bad enough to go out and buy a converter box?

No, I don't think I do, for three reasons. I have the Internet, I need more physical activity and I always have room for intellectual improvement.

Everything I like to watch on TV can be found for free on the Internet. Web sites such as hulu.com, tbs.com, adultswim.com, comedycentral.com and a host of others offer free viewing of TV shows. You can see everything from "Lost" to "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" for free.

Not only that, for a meager price you can buy an S-video cable and hook your computer to your TV to display the content of your monitor onto the television screen. For me that's a reason not to buy a converter.

The Nielsen Ratings, as posted on www.tvbythenumbers.com, showed that every night 38.5 million people watched basic cable channels from February 13 to 19. That is a lot of people.

Ninety-nine percent of households have

STAFF EDITORIAL

Student Government continues to lose its way

Regardless of which side of the aisle you're on, one of the more hopeful signs coming out of Washington, D.C., since President Obama took office is that America seems to be returning to the rule of law.

Under President Bush we saw soldiers torturing fellow humans, civil servants invading the privacy of citizens and an executive who flaunted the law, epitomizing President Nixon's infamous words, "When the president does it, that means that it is not illegal."

It is a shame then, as this nation finds itself returning to the notions of accountability and due process, that UNO's student leaders continue to regard themselves as beyond reproach.

The idea that Student Government executives are beyond the boundaries of the rules is certainly not new in the organization. A brief glance through their history shows a disregard for duties and procedures arising time and time again.

In recent years the organization failed to impeach former Vice President Buey Tut for missing too many meetings. Tut later resigned, citing a lack of available time to dedicate to the organization.

The rules have also been overlooked when allocating student fees. Former Vice President Mike White said at a meeting in October 2007, "Maybe we are breaking the rules, but does that really matter?"

The subject at hand for White? Whether to spend \$5,700 on a Student Government retreat in Kansas City. The proposal passed 19-1-1.

Continuing that tradition, as The Gateway reported last week, Speaker Luke Hoffman became the most recent addition to the list of Student Government's rule benders, as the Student Senate voted 15-5-3 in favor of retaining Hoffman despite him being charged with neglecting five of his duties under Student Government rules.

Specifically, Hoffman was accused in a resolution by Sen. Nathan Kirkland of:

1. Failing to "attend all Executive Council Meetings" (Bylaws II.B.5.c);
2. Failing to "chair all Rules Committee Meetings" (Bylaws II.B.5.d);
3. Failing to "distribute a written, formal agenda forty-eight (48) hours prior to the next Senate Session" (Bylaws II.B.5.g);
4. Failing to "record the attendance and office hours of the other Senators" (Bylaws II.B.5.i); and
5. Failing to "ensure all SG-UNO Meetings are recorded" (Bylaws II.B.5.n).

The clause following the enumeration of the speaker's duties also clearly states: "Failure to comply with any of the previous clauses is cause for removal" (Bylaws II.B.6).

If any one charge is enough for removal with cause, certainly five charges would be cause for the Student Senators' concern. Rather than address the substance of the accusations, Hoffman attacked the very idea of accountability in Student Government.

"I could have done better but that's not the point," Hoffman said during the meeting. "No disservice has been done to the student body. The spirit of our law must be upheld because our fellow students are the reason we are here."

The "spirit of the law" defense is a common one employed by those who ignore the rules - certainly Bush invoked it implicitly over the last eight years when vaguely justifying actions as in the best interests of the country.

This, however, is an utter misunderstanding of the notion of the "spirit of the law."

Black's Law Dictionary defines the phrase as "the general meaning or purpose of the law, as opposed to its literal component." The purpose of Student Government's bylaws is to ensure our student representatives are performing the basic duties of office we elected them to perform. In Hoffman's example there's little disagreement that he's failed to meet this standard.

This, in turn, is a disservice to the student body.

Without the basic mechanisms of a well-run organization the Student Senate will continue to be concerned with debates over dress-codes and executive speaking rights. They should be tackling important tasks like voicing student concerns over the looming budget crisis or implementing a safe ride home program.

Kirkland was absolutely correct in challenging whether Hoffman should remain in his position. It is the 15 senators who voted to keep him there whose judgment should be called into question.

With luck, and much determination from the senators, there is still hope that Student Senate will turn itself around and begin to accomplish the important duties it is designed to address.

On its present course, however, there is reason to worry Student Government as a whole will continue to accomplish little and abrogate the power assigned to it by the students of this university.

pick up have spurred me to wonder what I had been doing with myself as I vegged out in front of a dull glowing TV set, void of any real thought or meaning.

The answer to me is clear. I don't need a converter box and I don't need as much TV entertainment in my life. I am sure there are commercials for products and theme songs to sitcoms deeply ingrained in my subconscious that only rear their profitable messages and catchy jingles as I sleep. This knowledge makes me greatly uneasy.

So I bid thee farewell analog. You have been entertaining and mind-numbing for the past 20-some years of my life, but I don't think I can get along with your digital cousin.

I would like to take this time to inform my once good friend, the TV, that our relationship is now over.

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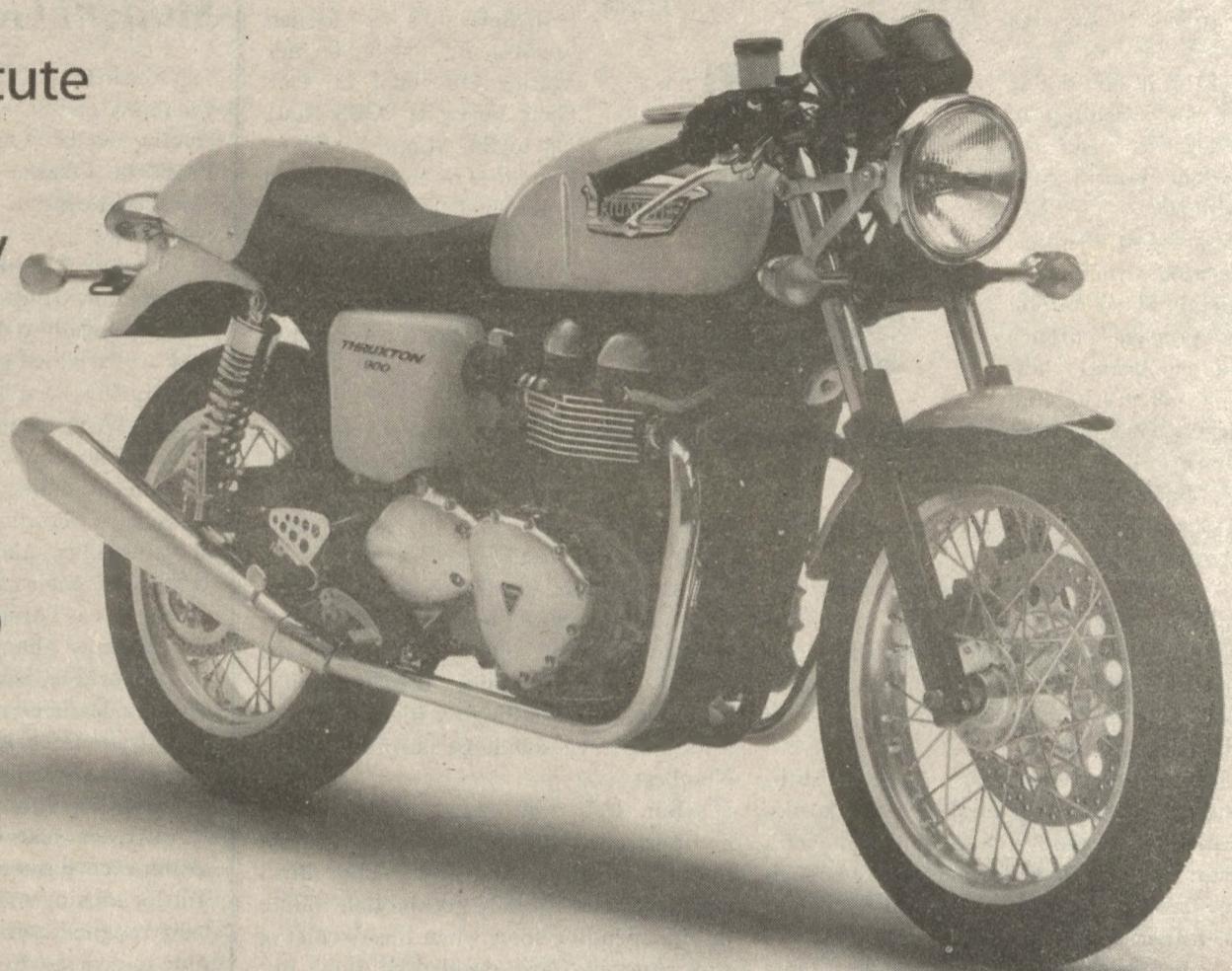
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FROM REMATCH: PAGE 4

advantage, but UNO responded by outscoring the Lions 17-1 for the remainder of the half. The Mavs held a 31-23 edge at the break.

Brodsack led the second-half attack for UNO. Her 3-pointer with 11:48 remaining put UNO up 50-32, its largest lead of the game.

Southern (18-9, 12-8 MIAA) trailed 52-41 with a chance to trim the lead to single-digits, but ended up committing a turnover. The Mavs finished with 21 points off turnovers.

UNO scored the next six points to build a 16-point lead with 7:12 remaining and maintained at least a 12-point advantage.

Junior Alyssa Green added 15 points while Wright added nine points and a game-high 10 rebounds. Brodsack finished with nine rebounds.

Barnes led Southern with 20 points while senior Nichole Helfrich chipped in 10.

"The last couple games our team has played well-rounded; we've had multiple players come up and make shots when needed," Brodsack said. "We've had a bunch of different people being high scorers and high rebounders so it makes it hard for teams to scout us."

FROM WOMEN'S: PAGE 4

points and eight rebounds.

"The seniors have been great representatives of our program," Hansen said. "This was a nice rebound win for us heading into the tournament."

The win snaps a two-game losing streak, giving the Mavs (17-10 overall, 11-9 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association) momentum heading into their first MIAA postseason tournament. It was also the first time UNO won its regular season finale since 2006.

"It feels exhilarating," Peterson said. "I'm glad these guys sent us out with a win."

UNO's forwards had a big game, including a 47-36 rebound advantage. Junior forward Dion Curry scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, while Newman scored 14.

"Our forwards stepped up and did a good job on their big men," Hansen said.

Both teams were tied at 24 points with 7:25 in the first half when Jenkins' 3-pointer helped spark a 14-0 run for the Mavericks. At the end of the half, UNO led 45-35. The Mavericks led by as many as 16 points in the second half, including a 10-0 run capped by three consecutive offensive rebounds on the same possession.

The Mavericks will enter the MIAA postseason tournament as the fifth seed and will play fourth-seeded Fort Hays State (19-8, 12-8 MIAA) Thursday at 2:15 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo.

"We're excited for it," Hansen said. "It's a new experience but we'll be ready for it."

FROM FIGHTER: PAGE 9

fighting game, "Street Fighter IV" hooks you from the moment you try it, encouraging improvement with every step. Even after all these years, the "Street Fighter" formula is still tremendously fun and exciting.

The graphic style, permeated with ink brush strokes and vivid colors, gives the game a unique, if not impressive look. Bulging eyeballs and other outlandish facial expressions on the characters also create a light-hearted cartoonish vibe, which kids and adults alike should find appealing.

Capcom unfortunately skimped on the surrounding presentation. The anime prologues and epilogues for each character look cheap and don't last for more than 30 seconds. Navigating the menus feels somewhat soulless while staring at static backgrounds and just enough text to get by. The arcade port quality feels rather sloppy overall.

Is "Street Fighter IV" the best fighting game of this generation? No. Its peers have evolved, expanding in depth and substance, while "Street Fighter IV" takes a regressive approach. But it's a damn solid fighting game nonetheless, and Capcom has treated the beloved characters with the same respect fans have held for years.

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